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Issue 5 Volume 6 June 2008




This Special Issue of *Frontiers*, on the study of ecology at continental scales, was generously funded by the National Science Foundation (DBI-0715408), USDA-ARS, and Consortium for Regional Ecological Observatories. Special thanks also to AIBS. We thank Guest Editor Debra Peters for her help with this issue.

Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the funders.

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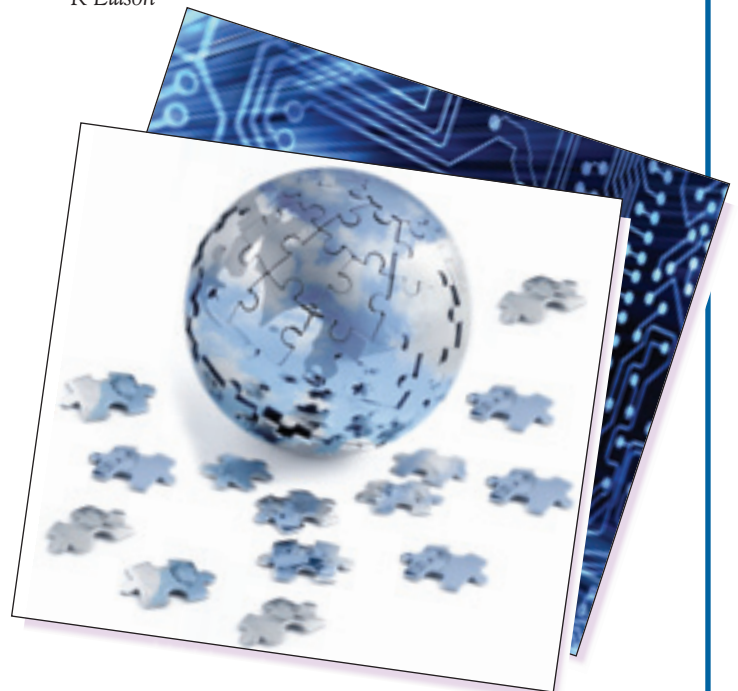
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Cover picture: In our increasingly connected world, there is a growing need for a network of observatories to study linkages across spatial and temporal scales.

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 **Beyond the Frontier:** Listen to Debra Peters discussing this Special Issue on *Frontiers'* monthly podcast, at www.frontiersinecology.org.